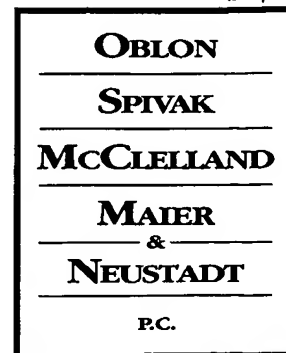




Docket No.: 251693US2X

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/821,971
Applicants: Toshihiko KITOKU, et al.
Filing Date: April 12, 2004
For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND
SUBSTRATE TRANSFER METHOD
Group Art Unit: 3749
Examiner: LU, JIPING

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

ELECTION

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Eckhard H. Kuesters

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DOCKET NO: 251693US2X



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TOSHIHIKO KITOKU ET AL : EXAMINER: LU, JIPING
SERIAL NO: 10/821,971 :
FILED: APRIL 12, 2004 : GROUP ART UNIT: 3749
FOR: VACUUM PROCESSING :
APPARATUS AND SUBSTRATE
TRANSFER METHOD

ELECTION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the election requirement dated June 1, 2005, Applicants elect Group I, Claims 1-8, drawn to a vacuum apparatus, classified in class 34, subclass 92, for further examination on the merits. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected invention.

Accordingly, examination on the merits of Claims 1-8 is in order and is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

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(OSMMN 08/03)